

Strand, CJ

From: brian.tang@yale.edu
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To: Strand, CJ
Subject: Testimony in support of Raised Bill #5386

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Testimony in support of Raised Bill #5386: An Act Concerning the Safety of Pedestrians and Cyclists and the Promotion of Healthy Communities:

I am actually astonished that a program like this does not already exist in Connecticut. I grew up in Oregon and Washington and I cannot imagine anything ever getting accomplished without state bike/ped grants. That is simply what allowed projects to happen. Now that I know that Connecticut has no existing grant program for bike/ped projects, I suddenly understand why it is that you hardly ever see any efforts to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians in Connecticut.

I can't afford to drive and so I get around exclusively by bicycle. The prioritization of auto traffic over the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians on Connecticut's roads has been a source of endless frustration for me ever since I moved here.

Our state is decades behind in this area, and while I recently switched my voter registration to New Haven, I can't imagine sticking around after I graduate from college if Connecticut does not begin to catch up. This simply isn't possible without a state grant program for bike/ped projects.

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